
INFO SURF ON HOT WEBSITES FOR LOCAL AGENCIES

Reprinted From Roger's Technology Toolbox, in the WST2 Bulletin

Highways and Local Programs

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ta/HOMEPAGE/HLPHP.html>

Of course, I have to start with the shameless self promotion, not just because I think we have a really hot site, but because I think there are a lot of good resources available for local agencies here. In addition to our T2 Center page, where you can access many training opportunities and on-line publication resources, you will find web pages covering a wide verity of subjects such as: Management Systems (pavement management, safety management, information systems and more), Grant programs, TEA-21, STIP, Bridge information and LAG (Local Agency Guidelines.)

This site is part of the WSDOT (Washington State Dept. of Transportation) at:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/>

CRAB (County Road Administration Board)

<http://www.crab.wa.gov/>

Even if you represent a small city, they have many helpful articles and links to resources that can help your agency.

Munisource

<http://www.munisource.org/>

This is a "notice board" called the "Municipal Forum" where those involved in municipal government can post notices or queries and check back later to view responses. Use it for whatever you want; job postings, tenders, items for sale, bylaw inquiries, conference notices or just leave messages for friend. They also have a chat room, called the "Municipal Grapevine", available for those who want to conference with others, and perhaps avoid those long distance charges!

MRSC (Municipal Research & Services Center)

<http://www.mrsc.org/>

Programs and services are available to Washington's 275 cities and 39 counties. MRSC's resources include a professional staff who are local government experts, a comprehensive local government reference library, publications, and an information packed site on the World Wide Web. One of their principal services is to respond to inquiries on virtually every facet of local government. Staff experience includes budgeting and finance, municipal law, public management and administration, planning and growth management, public works and utilities, and local government policies. MRSC's library contains the state's largest collection of local government reference materials, with over 12,000 volumes. Available materials include local ordinances, city and county codes, budgets and financial reports, comprehensive plans and documents illustrating virtually every function and operation of local government. City and county officials are encouraged to send copies of local documents so that they can be shared with other local governments.

You can also access the AWC (Association of Washington Cities) at this site location

<http://www.awcnet.org/>

WSAC (Washington State Association of Counties)

<http://www.wacounties.org>

WSAC is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that represents Washington's counties before the state legislature, the state executive branch, and regulatory agencies. WSAC focuses its work in several areas:

- Legislative Advocacy
- Membership Assistance
- District & Statewide Conferences
- Technical Assistance / Educational Workshops
- State agency & Rule making Advocacy
- Publications

APWA (American Public Works Association)

<http://www.pubworks.org/>

They are the engineers, technicians, public works directors, business people, contractors, and many others involved in bringing you public projects and services to make communities run efficiently. They have information, educational materials, and resources geared to meet the needs of public works departments.

Access Washington

<http://www.wa.gov/>

This is the state Internet portal providing interactive government services online to help meet the needs of the citizens of Washington. Access Washington is developed and managed by the Washington State Department of Information Services (DIS).

One of the resource that I have found helpful is:

"Find-it" <http://find-it.state.wa.us/compass>, a Project of Washington State's Government Information Locator Service. Some of the sites features are:

- Online Document Index: Search or browse their collection of online documents and web pages.
- Frequently Asked Questions/Queries: Browse their lists of the most frequently requested information
- Publication Index: Search their collection of government publications available at public libraries and state libraries.

Portions of this site are maintained by the Washington State Library: <http://www.statelib.wa.gov>

The U.S. State and local gateway

<http://www.statelocal.gov/>

This web site was developed to give state and local government officials and employees easy access to federal information. They have some resources for disaster management for local agencies and other training opportunities.

Infomine by the University of California

<http://infomine.ucr.edu/search/govpubsearch.phtml>

There are many good resources available here, I did a search on GIS (Geographic Information Systems), since that is an area of interest for me. Just one of the many resources that I found helpful was the "GIS Dictionary". The GIS Dictionary defines almost 1000 terms which either relate directly to GIS or which GIS users may come across in the course of their work. You may select a definition by term, from an alphabetic list, or by

category. The dictionary can be found at:

<http://www.geo.ed.ac.uk/agidict/welcome.html>

USDOT (U.S. Department of Transportation)

<http://www.dot.gov/>

They have many links to transportation related topics.

ICMA (International City/County Management Association)

<http://www.icma.org>

ICMA is a professional and educational association for administrators and assistant administrators serving cities, counties, other local governments, and regional entities. ICMA's mission is to strengthen the quality of local government through professional management.

If you have Topics of interest or sites that would be helpful to local governmental agencies please send them to me for future *Hot Sites* .

We at WSDOT, H&LP's T2 Center are here to serve as a resource for local agencies in Washington State, any comments or suggestions are greatly appreciated.

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